

NOMURA et al.
Appl. No. 09/892,747
Response to Office Action dated September 13, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A program supply method for transmitting a program from a server via a network to a user system, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

transmitting an operating environment of the user system from the user system via the network to the server before supplying the program; ~~and~~

judging whether the program is operable or not in the operating environment, and transmitting a result of the judgment judgement from the server via the network to the user system; ~~and~~

executing the program on the user system after the program is supplied from the server and installed on the user system to thereby confirm operation of the program.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The program supply method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ displaying the result of the judgment judgement as to whether the program is operable or not in the operating environment of the user system.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The program supply method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ transmitting an order for the program from the user system via the network to the server when the program is judged to be operable.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The program supply method set forth in claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

generating a program list made up of programs which can be supplied from the server; transmitting the program list from the server via the network to the user system; and

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selecting a program from the program list.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The program supply method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

generating by the server a program list made up of programs which can be operated in the operating environment of the user system;

transmitting the program list from the server via the network to the user system; and
selecting a program from the program list.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The program supply method set forth in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ storing the result of ~~the judgment judgement~~ as data of the user system in the server when the program is judged to be inoperable.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The program supply method set forth in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ expanding functions of the user system in which where a program supplied from the server via the network to the user system is installed.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A program supply method, comprising ~~the steps of~~:
receiving by a server an order for a program via a network from a user system;
transmitting a program in response to the order via the network to the user system; and
asking a user to pay for the program after confirming that the program is operable in the user system.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The program supply method set forth in claim 8, further comprising ~~the step of~~ requesting the user system by the server to inform the server of an operating environment via the network.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The program supply method set forth in claim 8, further comprising ~~the step of~~ generating by the server a program list made up of programs

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which are operable in the user system and which can be provided by the server, and providing the program list via the network to the user system.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The program supply method set forth in claim 8, further comprising ~~the step of~~ storing by the server of an operating environment of the user system.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A program supply system which supplies programs from a server via a network to a user system,

wherein:

said user system includes operating environment judging means for judging an operating environment of the user system, and before having a program supplied, transmits the judged operating environment via the network to the server, ~~and~~

said server includes operation judging means for judging whether the program is operable or not in the received operating environment, and transmits a result of the judgment judgement as to whether the program is operable or not via the network to the user system, and

said user system is operable to execute the program after the program is supplied from the server and installed on the user system to thereby confirm operation of the program.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The program supply system set forth in claim 12, wherein said user system includes:

operation input means to be operated by a user; and

display means for displaying data,

said user system is activated in response to operation on the operation input means, and the user system transmits the operating environment judged by the operation environment judging means via the network to the server, and displays the result of the judgment judgement given by the operation judging means of the server on the display means.

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Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The program supply system set forth in claim 12, wherein said user system orders the program to the server when the result of the judgment ~~judgement~~ received from the server indicates that the program is operable.

Claim 15 (Original): The program supply system set forth in claim 12, wherein said server further includes storing means for storing data of the user system.

Claim 16 (Original): The program supply system set forth in claim 12, wherein said user system expands its functions when a program supplied via the network from the server is installed.

Claim 17 (Original): The program supply system set forth in claim 12, wherein said user system is any of a personal computer, a portable terminal, and a complex digital image forming apparatus.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The program supply system set forth in claim 13, wherein:

said server further includes list generating means for generating a program list made up of programs which can be supplied to the user system, and transmits the program list via the network to the user system, and

said user system displays the program list on the display means, and selects a program from the program list according to operation on the operation input means.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The program supply system set forth in claim 13, wherein:

said server further includes list generating means for generating a program list made up of programs which are operable in the operating environment of the user system, and transmits the program list via the network to the user system, and

said user system displays the program list on the display means and selects a program from the program list according to operation on the operation input means.

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Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The program supply system set forth in claim 15, wherein said server stores the result of the judgment judgement by the operation judging means when the program is judged to be inoperable.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A program supply system which supplies programs from a server via a network to a user system,

wherein:

said user system includes:

operating environment judging means for judging an operating environment of the user system; and

user-side communication means for transmitting data to and receiving data from the server via the network,

said server includes:

server-side communication means for transmitting data to and receiving data from the user system via the network; and

operation judging means for judging whether a program can be operated or not in the operating environment of the user system received via the server-side communication means; and further wherein

said user system is operable to execute the program after the program is supplied from the server and installed on the user system to thereby confirm operation of the program.

Claim 22 (Original): A program supply system which transmits a program in response to an order received via a network from a user system to the user system via the network, comprising:

server-side operation judging means for confirming an operation state of the program in the user system; and

accounting means for asking a user to pay for the program after confirming the operation of the program.

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Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A program receiving method, comprising the steps of:

transmitting by a user system an order for a program via a network to a server;

receiving the program in response to the order from the server via the network;

confirming operation of the program; and

transmitting a notification of operation confirmation via the network to the server so as to allow the server to confirm an operation state of the program.

Claim 24 (Original): A program receiving apparatus for receiving a program from a server via a network, comprising:

user-side operation judging means for confirming operation of the program; and

operation confirmation notification transmitting means for transmitting a notification of operation confirmation to the server so as to allow the server to confirm an operation state of the program.

Claim 25 (Original): A program transmitting receiving system, comprising:

a program supply system comprising:

server-side operation judging means for confirming an operation state of the program in the user system; and

accounting means for asking a user to pay for the program after confirming the operation of the program;

a program receiving apparatus comprising:

user-side operation judging means for confirming operation of the program; and

operation confirmation notification transmitting means for transmitting a notification of operation confirmation to the server so as to allow the server to confirm an operation state of the program; and

wherein the program supply system and the program receiving apparatus are connected to each other via a network.

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Claim 26 (Original): A computer-readable recording medium having a program for executing the program receiving method of claim 1 recorded thereon.

Claim 27 (Original): A computer-readable recording medium having a program for executing the program receiving method of claim 23 recorded thereon.

Claim 28 (New): The program supply method of claim 1, further comprising:
sending a confirmation to the server if the operation of the program is confirmed by the executing.

Claim 29 (New): The program supply system of claim 12, wherein said user system is further operable to send a confirmation to the server if the operation of the program is confirmed by the execution.

Claim 30 (New): The program supply system of claim 21, wherein said user system is further operable to send a confirmation to the server if the operation of the program is confirmed by the execution.

Claim 31 (New): A method performed by a user system to obtain a program from a server, comprising:

sending to the server operating environment data of the user system;

receiving from the server a list of programs that is generated based on the operating environment data;

sending to the server a request for one of the programs selected from the list;

receiving the selected program from the server;

installing the received program;

executing the installed program to confirm its operation; and

sending to the server a notification regarding the confirmation of operation.

Claim 32 (New): The method of claim 31, further comprising:

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receiving a request for payment for the program from the server after the sending of notification.